

JAN 16 2007

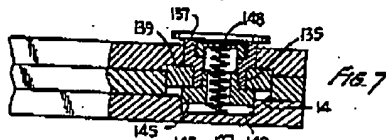
Attorney's Reference Number: 1201-031/ddh

2. Remarks

a. *Claim Objections.* Claim 10 is amended to address the Examiner's objections.

b. *The § 112 Rejections.* Claim 2 is amended (in combination with claim 1) in a manner that overcomes the indefiniteness rejection. Specifically, claims 1 and 2 are amended to clarify that the sidewalls have cylindrical bores in which the opposite ends of the stop pin resides, and that there is a hole through the first sidewall extending into the cylindrical bore and aligned with the axial bore in the stop pin.

c. *The § 102 Rejections.* Claims 1 – 7, 10 – 12, and 14 are rejected as anticipated by Boyd. Claim 1 is amended to distinguish Boyd by calling out that the *shortest radial distance from the axis to each of the planar surfaces is different for each planar surface*. Boyd relies upon a square member 24 (Figs 1 – 4), 139 (Figs. 6 – 8) that is attached to a cylindrical sleeve 131 on one end, and a cylindrical bushing 143 at the opposite end. The square member or nut 139 has four planar outer surfaces. Examination of Boyd's drawings clearly shows that the shortest radial distance from the axis through the device to each of the planar surfaces *is the same for each planar surface*.



Boyd's Fig. 7 is reproduced above. The shortest distance from the axis (i.e., the longitudinal axis extending through coil spring 148) to each of the four planar surfaces of nut 139 is, in each instance, equal. Accordingly, claim 1 is distinguishable from and patentable over Boyd. Likewise, claim 1 now requires a first cylindrical bore in the first sidewall that extends partially through the sidewall, and a hole extending through the sidewall into the first cylindrical bore. Boyd does not disclose this structure, which as noted in the specification (and in claim 2) allows the stop pin to be fixed relative to the first sidewall to prevent rotation of the pin. Boyd's knife requires that the locking mechanism be free to rotate relative to the

Attorney's Reference Number: 1201-031/ddh

sidewall (see, e.g., column 3, lines 49 through 52), whereas in the present invention the stop pin is capable of being fixed relative to the sidewall.

As just noted, claim 2 requires, among other things, that the stop pin is fixed relative to the first sidewall to prevent axial rotation of the pin with a screw inserted through the hole in the sidewall and threaded into the stop pin. Not only does Boyd not disclose a sidewall having a cylindrical bore extending partially therethrough and a hole extending through the sidewall (as now specified in claim 1), but Boyd does not fix the mechanism relative to the sidewall to prevent its rotation. In fact, just the opposite is true of Boyd: as the button 137 is depressed and the blade is rotated, the mechanism also rotates relative to the sidewalls.

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner argues that "Boyd discloses wherein the shortest radial distance from the axis to a first planar surface is equal to the radial distance from the axis to the first cylindrical outer surface. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of Boyd. Review of Boyd's Fig. 7 on the previous page illustrates that the shortest radial distance from the axis to the first cylindrical outer surface (i.e., the cylindrical outer surface 133 (or any cylindrical outer surface for that matter)) is significantly less than the shortest radial distance to any one of the planar surfaces.

Claims 5, 6 and 7 are amended to specify that the radial distances called out in the claims are the *shortest* radial distances.

For the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and claims 2, 4 through 9 are allowable over Boyd.

Claims 10 – 12 and 14 are rejected as anticipated by Morris. Claim 10 is amended to require that the radial distances R are measured from the axis to the *nearest point* on a planar surface. As pointed out by the Examiner, each of Morris' planar surfaces have an indefinite number of radial distances from their flat surfaces to the axis. However, there is only *one* radial distance from the axis to the nearest point on a planar surface, and in Morris' case, that distance is always the same.

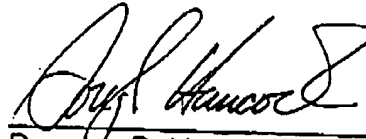
Claims 11, 12 and 14 are allowable based on dependency and for the limitations they add to an allowable base claim.

Attorney's Reference Number: 1201-031/ddh

d. *The § 103 Rejections.* Claims 8 and 14 are rejected as obvious over several references. For the reasons noted above, these claims are allowable based on dependency from allowable base claims.

Respectfully submitted,

September 27, 2006



Douglas D. Hancock
Registration No. 35,889

ipsolon llp
111 S.W. Columbia, Suite 710
Portland, Oregon 97201
phone: (541) 549-4942
cc: Les de Asis